

Introduced by Senators Romero and Steinberg

February 27, 2009

An act to add Section 48070.6 to the Education Code, relating to pupil retention.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 651, as introduced, Romero. Pupil retention.

Existing law requires the governing board of each school district and each county superintendent of schools to adopt policies regarding pupil promotion and retention. Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the state board, and the department to provide to the State Chief Information Officer the individual nonpersonally identifiable or aggregate data related to adequate yearly progress, graduation rates, pupils who drop out of school, and demographics of pupils and teachers.

This bill would require the Superintendent, on or before August 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, to submit to the Governor, the Legislature, and the state board, a report called the Annual Report on Dropouts in California. The bill would require, among other things, the report contain specified information on dropout rates, graduation rates, pupil promotion rates, course enrollment patterns, and behavioral data. The bill would require that the report include data from the most recent year and, at a minimum, the two prior years. The bill would also require the Superintendent to make an oral presentation of the contents of the report to the state board and to make the contents of the report available on the department's Internet Web site.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 48070.6 is added to the Education Code, to read:

48070.6. (a) On or before August 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the Superintendent shall submit to the Governor, the Legislature, and the state board, a report that shall be called the Annual Report on Dropouts in California. The report shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) One-year adjusted dropout rates for grades 7 to 12, inclusive.

(2) Four-year derived dropout rates for grades 9 to 12, inclusive.

(3) Two- or three-year derived dropout rates, as appropriate, for middle schools.

(4) Grade 9 to grade 10 promotion rates.

(5) Percentage of high school pupils at each grade level who are on track to earn sufficient credits to graduate.

(6) The average number of nonpromotional school moves that a pupil makes between grades 6 to 12, inclusive.

(7) “Full-year” dropout rates for alternative schools.

(8) Relevant data on school climate and pupil engagement from the California Healthy Kids Survey.

(9) California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) passage rates.

(10) Other available data relating to dropout or graduation rates or pupil progress toward high school graduation.

(b) When cohort dropout rates can be calculated accurately using longitudinal data, the rates described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) shall be replaced by dropout rates for cohorts of pupils entering high school.

(c) When cohort dropout rates can be calculated accurately using longitudinal data, the rates described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) shall be replaced by dropout rates for cohorts of pupils entering middle school.

(d) If data is available, the report shall also include all of the following:

(1) Rates at which pupils graduate in four, five, and six years.

(2) Course enrollment patterns by school and school district, including college preparatory curriculum and career technical education.

1 (3) Behavioral data by school and district, including suspensions
2 and expulsions.

3 (e) If possible, the data listed in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall
4 be presented in the report, organized as follows:

5 (1) By state.

6 (2) By county.

7 (3) By district.

8 (4) By school.

9 (f) The report shall include data from alternative middle and
10 high schools, including continuation high schools, community day
11 schools, juvenile court schools, special schools, opportunity
12 schools, and schools attended by wards of the Department of
13 Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice.

14 (g) If possible, the data listed in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall
15 be presented for the following subgroups, if the subgroup consists
16 of at least 50 pupils each of whom has a valid test score, and the
17 subgroup constitutes at least 15 percent of the total population of
18 pupils at a school who have valid test scores:

19 (1) Grade level.

20 (2) Ethnicity.

21 (3) Gender.

22 (4) Socioeconomic status.

23 (5) Limited English proficiency.

24 (6) Disability status.

25 (h) The report shall include data from the most recent year and,
26 at a minimum, the two prior years, so that comparisons can be
27 made easily.

28 (i) The Superintendent or his or her designee shall make an oral
29 presentation of the contents of the report to the state board at a
30 regularly scheduled meeting of the board.

31 (j) The Superintendent shall make the contents of the report
32 available on the department's Internet Web site in a format that is
33 easy for the public to access and understand.

34 (k) If inclusion of school-level data would render the written
35 report unwieldy, the data may be omitted from the written report
36 and posted on the department's Internet Web site.